

ICET 182/89

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RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 9TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF SOLIDARITY GROUPS FOR EAST TIMOR, COPENHAGEN, FEBRUARY 11TH-12TH, 1989

We, the solidarity groups at the above meeting agree on the following points:

We note with great satisfaction the continuing struggle of the people of East Timor for their fundamental rights and freedoms as related to us by the representative of the National Convergence of East Timor and receive with gratitude the gifts sent to us by the women of the East Timorese resistance.

Self-Determination and Human Rights

1. We strongly disagree with recent suggestions that the human rights situation in East Timor has improved for the following reasons:

a) An estimated 2000 Timorese people were killed in East Timor during 1988.

b) 3000 Timorese were arrested arbitrarily in Dili during the first week of November, 1988, before the visit of Suharto to East Timor. Many of these prisoners were tortured.

c) East Timorese people continue to live in resettlement areas to which they were forcibly relocated.

d) Timorese who wish to visit relatives outside of the country have to leave members of their families hostage in East Timor.

We note the statement by Bishop Belo of East Timor on December 5th, 1988: "We oppose this barbaric system and condemn the lying propaganda, according to which human rights violations do not exist in East Timor."

2. We emphasise that the bureaucratic changes which have been undertaken by Indonesia with respect to East Timor ("Equalisation of East Timor with other Indonesian Provinces") do not warrant the use of the concept of "opening" in any way whatsoever. The concept of "open" is meaningless and irrelevant to the status of East Timor as an occupied colonial territory of Indonesia.

3. Considering that Indonesia has no legal right to be in East Timor, any visit to the country should be able to proceed without interference from the Indonesian authorities; considering, also, that even though Indonesia says that East Timor is "opening up" the government will not allow anyone to enter who opposes the principle of occupation; we therefore have immediate reservations about any visits which do not fulfill the following minimal conditions:

- a) Free movement throughout the whole of East Timor.
- b) Unsupervised free access to all Timorese.
- c) Visitors should be able to choose their own independent interpreters and advisors.
- d) Visitors should be able to stay in East Timor for as long as they need.
- e) No limit on the number of persons in the group.
- f) Recognition that East Timorese are under strong pressure not to speak out for fear of retaliation by the Indonesian authorities.

International Meetings

4. We consider that the occasion of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting to be held at the Hague, Netherlands in June, 1989, will be a major opportunity to promote the cause of East Timor.

5. We will also lobby our governments on the occasion of the IGGI meeting in June.

6. We agree to continue our support and participation work at the UN Decolonization Committee in New York, during August.

National and International Activities

7. We support the initiative of establishing the Parliamentarians for East Timor organisation and call on solidarity groups internationally to encourage recruitment of Parliamentarians.

8. We consider that the European Parliament resolution Doc. 82-143/88 (adopted, September, 1988) is the strongest statement in favour of East Timor in recent years and constitutes a resounding defeat for the Indonesian diplomatic offensive of 1988. Follow-up activities should include:

a) Supporting point 18 of the resolution which requests the European Commission to give a progress report on the situation in East Timor within 6 months;

b) Arranging a hearing at Strasbourg on East Timor after the European elections in June, 1989.

9. We welcome the principled diplomatic initiative being taken by the Portuguese authorities for the resolution of the conflict in East Timor according to Article 297 of the Portuguese Constitution which binds Portugal to "promoting and guaranteeing the right to the independence of East Timor". We are looking forward to the realisation of the plan for an International Conference of Parliamentarians on East Timor and hope that it will take place in Lisbon during 1989.

10. We are very impressed by the rapid rise and consolidation of the Free East Timor Japan Coalition. We commit ourselves to supporting internationally its crucial work of trying to influence Japanese government opinion on East Timor.

These resolutions were approved on February 13th in Copenhagen by the following 15 organisations:

Denmark: The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
IWGIA National Group - Denmark

France: CIMADE
Association de Solidarité avec Timor Oriental

Germany: Society for Endangered Peoples
IMBAS

Japan: Free East Timor Japan Coalition

Netherlands: Commission for Justice and Peace
Komitee Indonesie
X minus Y

Portugal Comissao para os Direitos de Povo Maubere

Switzerland: IWGIA National Group

Sweden: East Timor Committee

United Kingdom: TAPOL

Christian Movement of Peace